

**Claims as Amended:**

Please cancel claim 8 without prejudice.

9. A piezoelectric actuator as defined in claim 15; and further comprising an insulation layer applied in a region in which said internal electrode extended from a non-contacted side of the end terminates.

10. A piezoelectric actuator as defined in claim 15, wherein said external electrodes are composed on an electrically conductive material selected from the group consisting of a metal strip, a screen, and a net.

11. A piezoelectric actuator as defined in claim 15, wherein said external electrodes are composed of wave electrodes that bridge over the other internal electrode extended to an end of the piezoelectric ply and not to be contacted, at a specific distance in a shape of a wave.

12. A piezoelectric actuator as defined in claim 15, wherein said multilayer structure of piezoelectric plies is provided with an electrically insulating ceramic plate at each end of said piezoelectric plies.

13. A piezoelectric actuator as defined in claim 15, wherein said piezoelectric actuator is formed so that it is usable to actuate a mechanical component.

14. A piezoelectric actuator as defined in claim 15, wherein said piezoelectric actuator is formed a valve.

Please add the following new claim:

15. Piezoelectric actor comprising:  
a multilayer structure of piezoelectric plies and internal electrodes disposed between said piezoelectric plies, wherein each second internal electrode is in contact with a first outer electrode on a first longitudinal outer side of the piezoelectric actor and wherein electrodes lying therebetween are in contact with a second outer electrode on a second longitudinal outer side of the piezoelectric actor,

wherein first and second consecutive internal electrodes that contact one of the longitudinal sides are electrically connected with one another by means of an outer contact on one of said longitudinal sides, and

wherein, from said first and second internal electrodes connected with one another by means of the outer contact, the first internal electrode extends out to the other longitudinal side at a side of said first internal electrode that faces away from said outer contact, and wherein the second internal electrode terminates within a piezoelectric ply bordering on said second internal electrode, and

wherein the outer electrodes are in contact with the internal electrodes by means of outer contacts, whereby a region of the longitudinal outer sides that is not provided with outer contacts is bridged over at a specific distance.

Amend as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 8 without prejudice.

9. A piezoelectric actuator as defined in claim [8] 15; and further comprising an insulation layer applied in a region in which said internal electrode extended from a non-contacted side of the end terminates.

10. A piezoelectric actuator as defined in claim [8] 15, wherein said external electrodes are composed on an electrically conductive material selected from the group consisting of a metal strip, a screen, and a net.

11. A piezoelectric actuator as defined in claim [8] 15, wherein said external electrodes are composed of wave electrodes that bridge over the other internal electrode extended to an end of the piezoelectric ply and not to be contacted, at a specific distance in a shape of a wave.

12. A piezoelectric actuator as defined in claim [8] 15, wherein said multilayer structure of piezoelectric plies is provided with an electrically insulating ceramic plate at each end of said piezoelectric plies.

13. A piezoelectric actuator as defined in claim [8] 15, wherein said piezoelectric actuator is formed so that it is usable to actuate a mechanical component.

14. A piezoelectric actuator as defined in claim [8] 15, wherein said piezoelectric actuator is formed a valve.

Please add the following new claim:

15. Piezoelectric actor comprising:  
a multilayer structure of piezoelectric plies and internal electrodes disposed between said piezoelectric plies, wherein each second internal electrode is in contact with a first outer electrode on a first longitudinal outer side of the piezoelectric actor and wherein electrodes lying therebetween are in contact with a second outer electrode on a second longitudinal outer side of the piezoelectric actor,

wherein first and second consecutive internal electrodes that contact one of the longitudinal sides are electrically connected with one another by means of an outer contact on one of said longitudinal sides, and

wherein, from said first and second internal electrodes connected with one another by means of the outer contact, the first internal electrode extends out to the other longitudinal side at a side of said first internal electrode that faces away

from said outer contact, and wherein the second internal electrode terminates within a piezoelectric ply bordering on said second internal electrode, and wherein the outer electrodes are in contact with the internal electrodes by means of outer contacts, whereby a region of the longitudinal outer sides that is not provided with outer contacts is bridged over at a specific distance.